

# Alabama Public Service Commission News

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**Jim Sullivan**, President

**Jan Cook**, Commissioner, Place 1

**Susan D. Parker**, Commissioner, Place 2

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## Local calling expanded in Mobile and Huntsville areas

AT&T (formerly BellSouth) will expand local calling areas in communities around Mobile and Huntsville, according to documents filed with the Alabama Public Service Commission.

### **Effective April 16:**

In Mobile, Baldwin and Washington counties, the new plan will eliminate the 12 cents per minute usage charges between the following exchanges: Bay Minette to/from Mobile, and Bay Minette to/from Fairhope. Unlimited local calling will be provided in place of the measured plan and included as part of basic service.

In Mobile County, Mt. Vernon and Citronelle are added to each other's local calling area. The McIntosh exchange in Washington County and Mobile are added to one another's local calling area.

"We encourage all our telephone companies to lower costs for customers in the smaller communities just outside the major cities when feasible, and these new calling plans do just that," said PSC President Jim Sullivan.

### **Effective May 7:**

In Madison and Morgan counties, the plan provides local calling to/from Decatur and Huntsville and to/from Decatur and Madison.

"I have always worked as an advocate for rural Alabama. As such, I am glad to see this effort to help people in rural Alabama conduct business and stay in touch with family members in the bigger towns," said Commissioner Jan Cook.

A chart is attached which provides all the exchanges included in the new local calling areas.

"Economic development in Alabama is now done on a regional basis, not just town by town. This change will help families, but will also help businesses by lowering costs and making entire regions of the state competitive as locations for new business and industry," said PSC Commissioner Susan D. Parker.

The local calling plans were part of the PSC's agenda for its regular monthly meeting in Montgomery on April 3, 2007.